

Application No. 09/849,437
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated February 19, 2004
April 19, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 4 and 7-8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers, respectively:

Claim 1 (Cancelled):

Claim 2 (Currently amended): ~~The A machine tool according to claim 1, further~~ comprising:

a fixed bed, said fixed bed having a longitudinal axis, said fixed bed also including a first side and a second side disposed apart from each other and being intersected by the longitudinal axis;

at least one tool post mounted on a first side of said fixed bed, wherein said at least one tool post being mounted on at least one carriage;

a headstock provided on said fixed bed, wherein a workpiece disposed in said headstock is subjected to a cutting process by

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moving at least one of said at least one carriage and said at least one tool post relative to the workpiece;

a headstock base having said headstock disposed thereon, the headstock and the headstock base are attached to each other and move together between a workpiece machining position where the workpiece can be machined at the second side of said fixed bed and a workpiece loading and unloading position where the workpiece can be loaded and unloaded adjacent the first side of said fixed bed; and

a chip collecting opening in said fixed bed adjacent to said at least one carriage and said headstock when said headstock is positioned in the workpiece machining position.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): The machine tool according to claim 2, wherein said fixed bed further comprises a tunnel formed therein, the tunnel communicating with said chip collecting opening and extending rearwardly away from the first side of said fixed bed, whereby chips that have fallen into said chip collecting opening can be collected through the tunnel.

Claim 4 (Cancelled):

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Claim 5 (Currently amended): ~~The A machine tool according to claim 4, further comprising:~~

a fixed bed, said fixed bed having a longitudinal axis, said fixed bed also including a first side and a second side disposed apart from each other and being intersected by the longitudinal axis;

at least one tool post mounted on a first side of said fixed bed, wherein said at least one tool post being mounted on at least one carriage;

a headstock provided on said fixed bed, wherein a workpiece disposed in said headstock is subjected to a cutting process by moving at least one of said at least one carriage and said at least one tool post relative to the workpiece; and

a headstock base having said headstock disposed thereon, the headstock and the headstock base are attached to each other and move together between a workpiece machining position where the workpiece can be machined at the second side of said fixed bed and a workpiece loading and unloading position where the workpiece can be loaded and unloaded adjacent the first side of said fixed bed;

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wherein said at least one carriage comprises two carriages,
one of said carriages being disposed on a left side of the first
side of said fixed bed and the other of said carriages being
disposed on a right side of the first side of said fixed bed,
said headstock being disposable at a central location between
said carriages; and

a chip collecting opening in said fixed bed between said
carriages and said headstock when said headstock is positioned in
the workpiece machining position.

Claim 6 (Previously amended): The machine tool according to
claim 5, wherein said fixed bed further comprises a tunnel formed
therein, the tunnel communicating with said chip collecting
opening and extending rearwardly away from the first side of said
fixed bed, whereby chips that have fallen into said chip
collecting opening can be collected through the tunnel.

Claim 7 (Cancelled):

Claim 8 (Cancelled):

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Claim 9 (Currently amended): The A machine tool according to
claim 8, further comprising:

a fixed bed, said fixed bed having a longitudinal axis, said
fixed bed also including a first side and a second side disposed
apart from each other and being intersected by the longitudinal
axis;

a pair of tool posts mounted on a first side of said fixed
bed, wherein each of said tool posts being mounted on a carriage;

a headstock provided on said fixed bed, wherein a workpiece
disposed in said headstock is subjected to a cutting process by
moving at least one of said carriages and said tool posts
relative to the workpiece; and

a headstock base having said headstock disposed thereon, the
headstock and the headstock base are attached to each other and
move together between a workpiece machining position where the
workpiece can be machined at the second side of said fixed bed
and a workpiece loading and unloading position where the
workpiece can be loaded and unloaded adjacent the first side of
said fixed bed;

wherein one of said carriages is disposed on a left side of
the first side of said fixed bed and the other of said carriages

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is disposed on a right side of the first side of said fixed bed,
said headstock being disposable at a central location between
said carriages; and

a chip collecting opening in said fixed bed between said carriages and said headstock when said headstock is positioned in the workpiece machining position.

Claim 10 (Previously amended): The machine tool according to claim 9, wherein said fixed bed further comprises a tunnel formed therein, the tunnel communicating with said chip collecting opening and extending rearwardly away from the first side of said fixed bed, whereby chips that have fallen into said chip collecting opening can be collected through the tunnel.

Claim 11 (Previously amended): A machine tool comprising:
a fixed bed, said fixed bed having a longitudinal axis, said fixed bed also including a first side and a second side disposed apart from each other and being intersected by the longitudinal axis;

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a pair of tool posts mounted on the first side of said fixed bed, wherein each of said tool posts being mounted on a respective carriage;

a headstock provided on said fixed bed, wherein a workpiece disposed in said headstock is subjected to a cutting process by moving at least one of said carriages and said tool posts relative to the workpiece;

a headstock base having said headstock disposed thereon, the headstock and the headstock base are attached to each other and move together between a workpiece machining position where the workpiece can be machined at the second side of said fixed bed and a workpiece loading and unloading position where the workpiece can be loaded and unloaded adjacent the first side of said fixed bed;

a chip collecting opening being disposed in said fixed bed between said respective carriages and said headstock and being open when said headstock is positioned in the workpiece machining position and being closed when said headstock is positioned in the workpiece loading and unloading position; and

said fixed bed includes a tunnel formed therein, the tunnel communicating with said chip collecting opening and extends

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rearwardly away from the first side of said fixed bed, whereby chips that have fallen into said chip collecting opening can be collected through the tunnel.

Claim 12 (Previously amended): A machine tool comprising:

a fixed bed, said fixed bed having a longitudinal axis, said fixed bed also including a first side and a second side disposed apart from each other and being intersected by the longitudinal axis;

a pair of tool posts mounted on the first side of said fixed bed, wherein each of said tool posts being mounted on a respective carriage;

a headstock provided on a headstock base, said headstock base being disposed on said fixed bed, whereby a workpiece disposed in said headstock can be subjected to a cutting process by moving at least one of said respective carriages and said tool posts relative to the workpiece;

said headstock being movable between a workpiece machining position where the workpiece can be machined at the second side of said fixed bed and a workpiece loading and unloading position

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where the workpiece can be loaded and unloaded adjacent the first side of said fixed bed;

a chip collecting opening being disposed in said fixed bed between said respective carriages and said headstock and said headstock being positionable over said chip collecting opening so that said chip collecting is open when said headstock is positioned in the workpiece machining position and is closed when said headstock is positioned in the workpiece loading and unloading position; and

said fixed bed includes a tunnel formed therein, the tunnel communicating with said chip collecting opening and extending rearwardly away from the first side of said fixed bed, whereby chips that have fallen into said chip collecting opening can be collected through the tunnel.